

**Remarks Prior to a Meeting With
Congressional Leaders**

February 11, 2003

Judicial Nominee Miguel A. Estrada

It's my pleasure to welcome members of both political parties from the House of Representatives to discuss how we can continue to make progress in welfare reform. The welfare law of 1996 made a significant difference in the lives of a lot of our fellow citizens. Our job now is to build on that progress, and I want to thank the Members for being here. I look forward to a good and fruitful discussion.

I nominated a good man named Miguel Estrada for the Circuit Court here in Washington, DC. Miguel Estrada is highly qualified, extremely intelligent. He has the votes necessary to be confirmed. Yet a handful of Democrats in the Senate are playing politics with his nomination. And it's shameful politics. This man is highly qualified, and I expect him to be nominated. And I expect him to get fairer treatment than he's getting from those who are really playing against the spirit of the United States Senate. And so I call upon fair play in the Senate, for the sake of a good, sound judiciary.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:38 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Miguel A. Estrada, nominee to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Statement on Senate Action on the
Nomination of Miguel A. Estrada To
Be United States Circuit Judge for
the District of Columbia Circuit**

February 11, 2003

Last week, the Senate began floor consideration of the nomination of Miguel Estrada to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Estrada's nomination was first submitted to the Senate in May 2001—almost 2 years ago. Miguel Estrada is a well-qualified and well-respected nominee who enjoys the bipartisan support of a majority of Senators. Fairness

demands that he receive an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor. I urge the Senate to act quickly and allow for an up-or-down vote on this worthy candidate.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
Amendments to the 1987 Treaty on
Fisheries Between the Governments
of Certain Pacific Island States and
the Government of the United States
of America, With Annexes**

February 11, 2003

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith Amendments to the 1987 Treaty on Fisheries Between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America, with Annexes and agreed statements, done at Port Moresby, April 2, 1987 (the "Treaty"), done at Koror, Palau, March 30, 1999, and at Kiritimati, Kiribati, March 24, 2002. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Secretary of State with respect to these Amendments, related Amendments to the Treaty Annexes, and the Memorandum of Understanding regarding provisional application.

The United States enjoys positive and constructive fisheries relations with the Pacific Island Parties through the implementation and operation of the Treaty, which is one of the cornerstones of our overall foreign relations with the Pacific Island Parties. This Treaty, and the good relationships it has fostered, has provided new opportunities for collaboration between the Pacific Island Parties and the United States on fisheries conservation and management issues. The relationships established as a result of the Treaty have also helped to safeguard U.S. commercial and security interests in the region.

The Amendments to the Treaty will, among other things, allow U.S. longline vessels to fish in high seas portions of the Treaty Area; streamline the way amendments to the Treaty Annexes are agreed; and allow the Parties to consider the issue of capacity in the Treaty Area and, where appropriate, to promote consistency between the Treaty and

the relevant fisheries management convention, which is likely to come into force during the duration of the extended operation of the Treaty.

Existing legislation, including the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* and the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988, Public Law 100–330, provides sufficient legal authority to implement U.S. obligations under the Treaty. Therefore, no new legislation is necessary in order for the United States to ratify these Amendments. However, minor amendments to section 6 of the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988, Public Law 100–330 will be necessary to take account of the Amendment to paragraph 2 of Article 3 “Access to the Treaty Area,” which opens the high seas of the Treaty Area to fishing by U.S. longline vessels.

I recommend that the Senate give favorable consideration to these Amendments and give its advice and consent to their ratification at an early date.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 11, 2003.

Remarks to Small Investors in Alexandria, Virginia

February 12, 2003

Thank you all for coming. Thanks for your interest in this country and its future. We’ve got some big challenges ahead of us. We’ve got an opportunity to make the world a more peaceful place and a freer place. And I believe, as a result of the resolve of the United States of America, the world will be more peaceful, and the world will be more free. And here at home, we’ve got a challenge with our economy. I mean, frankly, it’s not strong enough. It is not robust enough. Anytime somebody is looking for a job and can’t find one means we’ve got to work together to create jobs.

Now, the role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit can flourish, in which people are encouraged to invest and save, in which there’s confidence in the future of the coun-

try. And that’s what we’re here to discuss today.

I want to thank John Snow for agreeing to serve in our administration. He came at a pretty tough time. *[Laughter]* Some people would have said, “Well, I don’t think I want to take on the job unless everything is precooked and the markets will be surging.” But he realized that this country needed all of us pulling together. So I asked him; I said, “Would you be willing to leave the private sector to serve America?” And he said yes. And I’m thankful for that. I’m glad to have him on my team. His job is to talk about our program all around the country and particularly in the Halls of Congress and convince them about the wisdom of what we’re proposing.

Speaking about Halls of Congress, John mentioned George Allen, the Senator from Virginia. I’m glad that George is here. And Don Manzullo from Illinois is here, too. I’m honored both you guys came. I appreciate your interest. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, to do what’s right for the American people.

I want to thank Chuck Schwab, as well, for coming. He’s a—he is a leading entrepreneur in the country. Built his own business. Tomorrow, when I go down to Florida, I’m going to talk about the dreams for small businesses that grow to be big businesses. This is a guy that took a small business and grew it into a big business. It’s really what America is all about, is to have unlimited horizons for people to take risk so they can achieve dreams, no matter what their status in life may be. And the Schwab Company certainly is—represents the great entrepreneurial spirit of our country.

I also want to thank Susan Meisinger and David Hutchins, who run the Society for Human Resource Management. Thank you for opening up your hall. It’s awfully thoughtful of you to let us come in here. I fully recognize it’s not easy to host a Presidential entourage—*[laughter]*—but you did it. And thanks for giving us a chance to come and talk about how we’re going to address some of the big challenges here at home.

My attitude about the economy is that, first, we’ve done a pretty remarkable job here